The **Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute** (MFI)

is a partnership between the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the University's Intercampus Graduate School of Marine Science and Technology (IGS). It is the focus for developing innovative and practical fisheries management applications contributing to scientific understanding, management, and the economic growth and sustainability of our oceans and the communities of Massachusetts that border on the ocean. MFI administers and supports research projects involving faculty, professional researchers, technical staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students from 5 campuses, multiple disciplines, and several coastal facilities. *The mission of the MFI is to promote sustainable fisheries by providing timely information and guidance to protect, conserve, and manage Massachusetts' marine and coastal resources.*

The Massachusetts marine economy supports one of the largest and most historic industries in the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts fishing industry predates the birth of our nation and currently employs over 80,000 people who earn almost $2 billion annually. The value of marine fisheries landings and expenditures made by recreational anglers within the Commonwealth contribute an additional $1.3 billion per year. While its commercial fishery has always been a national leader, the value of the Massachusetts marine recreational fishing industry has grown in recent years, and is now ranked second in the country. Consequently, substantial public resources are required to manage and protect the living resources, environment, and fisheries that compose this extremely valuable marine economy.

Creation of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute represents a new cooperative venture between the Division of Marine Fisheries, the Commonwealth's marine fisheries management and research agency, and the University of Massachusetts, its leading institution of higher education. The Institute's vision will be its guide to achieving success -- "**To Become a Nationally and Internationally Recognized Educational Center of Excellence and Leader in Developing Innovative and Practical Fisheries Management Applications Contributing to Scientific Understanding, Management, and the Economic Growth and Sustainability of Our Oceans and the Communities of Massachusetts That Border on the Ocean."** The Institute's structure will link the two organizations together to enhance each other's influence and effect on marine fisheries management in Massachusetts and throughout New England.

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

Division of Marine Fisheries' *(MarineFisheries)* commitment to managing commercial and recreational fisheries is significant and demanding. The Division administers all Commonwealth laws and regulations relating to marine fisheries. It is responsible for the development and stewardship of marine fish and fisheries as evidenced by a long-term, extensive involvement with fishery management councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and its own Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Commission. This stewardship demands the Division to maintain its leadership role and expand its influence. This maintenance and expansion comes from knowledge acquired through the government-academic partnership created by the Institute.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. Develop and implement fisheries policy, management plans, and regulations.
2. Design and operate science programs that collect biological fisheries information needed to develop sound management practices.
3. Collect, compile, and disseminate fisheries statistics.
4. Administer fisherman and seafood dealer license programs.
5. Carry out shellfish sanitation and management programs.
6. Conduct marine recreational fisheries programs.
7. Conduct environmental impact assessment programs.
8. Administer Clean Vessel Act.

MarineFisheries has a strong reputation for its work in conservation engineering, shellfish sanitation and management, and for conducting resource surveys.

Improving efficiency of fishing gear by reducing catch of juvenile fish and regulated species, are hallmarks of its Conservation Engineering Program.

Public health protection is afforded through the sanitary classification of all 1,745,723 acres of overlying waters within the states territorial sea in accordance with the provisions of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP).

An inshore trawl survey that has been operated continuously for 25 years sets the standard for collection of marine fisheries resource information.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

The University of Massachusetts component of the Institute is a critical ingredient to assure distinction. Talents and expertise of graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in marine sciences and associated technologies lead to problem-solving and data-gathering critical for understanding fisheries, fishermen, and their environments. Moreover, professors versed in fisheries management, policy, and research spark innovation and progress towards sustainable fisheries of great economic value to the Commonwealth.

The University's IGS has a major interest in fisheries management. The development of new management applications as result of SMAST efforts has significantly enhanced economic development in New Bedford over the past five years.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. High-Resolution Fisherman-Based Surveys
2. Cod Tagging Programs
3. Georges Bank Sea Scallop Survey
4. Advanced Fisheries Information Management System
5. Bioeconomics Laboratory

UMass Creates the Intercampus Graduate School (IGS) of Marine Sciences & Technology

The UMass Board of Trustees has approved the formation of the University's first multi-campus school, the IGS, and has also appointed Dr. Brian Rothschild, director of SMAST (formerly CMAST), the school's first dean. Dr. Robert Gamache, a professor in the Department of Environment, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at UMass Lowell, was appointed associate dean.